Vol. VIII. Numb. 50

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Surrender of Tournay; *with a Deſcription of the Place, and an Account of its Importance to the Allies. On the Impatience of ſome People to have our Army enter* France; *with Reflexions upon it. On the Proſpect of the* French *King's renewing Propoſals of Peace. What the Allies have Reaſon to demand as a Preliminary. On his renewing the Perſecution of his Proteſtant Subjects. On the Proſpect of the Duke of* Savoy's *Progreſſes, and the Surmiſes that have been ſpread, as if his Royal Highneſs had not receiv'd a ſatisfactory Anſwer from the Emperor about his Pretenſions to ſome Provinces his Imperial Majeſty had promis'd him by Treaty.*

From Wednesday, July 20. to Saturday, July 23. 1709.

Country-m. I Have got good News for you, Maſter; a fighting Story: We have drubb'd the *French* out of *Tournay*. An Expreſs that arriv'd on Wedneſday laſt, ſays we had ſent in our Hoſtages, and that the Articles were then a ſettling.

Obſ. I am glad of it, *Roger*; that's better than the cheating Story of the Treaty we were ſo long ſtunn'd with. The only Way to bring the *French* to treat in Earneſt, is, for the Allies to fight in Earneſt.

Country-m. I hope to have a better fighting Story for you ere long, Maſter, for the News ſays our Generals intend to leave a ſufficient Body of Men to carry on the Siege of the Cittadel, which, 'tis ſuppos'd, can't hold out long, and that they will march to attack M. *Villars*, before his Lines are in a Poſture of Defence.

Obſ. I wiſh them good Succeſs, *Roger*; but ſince the *French* were not in a Condition to attempt the Relief of *Tournay*, there's little Probability of their being in a Condition to ſtand a Battel, or that they will give us an Opportunity to fight them, if either ſtrong Intrenchments or a Retreat can hinder it.

Country-m. But then I hope we may enter *France*, Maſter, and come up with them that Way.

Obſ. That we muſt leave to the Conduct of our Generals, under the Direction of the divine Providence, *Roger*. We may probably harraſs their Country, by ſending Detachments to lay it under Contributions, but it is not ſo eaſy as you imagine, to march an Army into their Country, ſo long as they have one in the Field, and ſtrong Garriſons, to flank us in our March, and intercept our Convoys.

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, give me an Account of the Situation of their Camp, and of the Country, that I may be able to diſcourſe the Point with ſuch Men as will hear of nothing leſs than marching ſtreight to the Walls of *Paris*.

Obſ. Had the Confederates a Fleet in Readineſs, to ſecond their Land-Armies, *Roger*, to carry them Proviſions and Forrage, and to harraſs the *French* Coaſts, 'tis not improbable that our Generals might ſoon force their Way into *France*; but if they ſhould, they could not be at any great Diſtance from the Sea, for that ruin'd and impoveriſh'd Country is not able to furniſh them Subſiſtance, and they can't have it conveniently from the *Netherlands*, 'till we be Maſters of more of their Garriſons, except we had a Place of Arms on their Coaſt.

Country-m. We have taken Places of Arms on their Coaſts formerly, Maſter, why may'nt we do ſo again?

Obſ. Keep to your Text, *Roger*; you ask'd me the Situation of their Camp and Country.

Country-m. Don't angry, Maſter, we Country Folks don't always know how to keep to Rules. Pray go on with their Situation: But where-abouts is *Lens*, where they have their Intrenchments? and what ſort of a Place is it? I hope it is not very ſtrong.

Obſ. Lens is about 24 Miles farther into the Country than *Tournay*, *Roger*, about 10 Miles on this ſide *Arras*, and a Place of no great Strength; but *Arras* is ſtrong and regularly fortify'd; and there are other Garriſons to front or flank us, march which Way we will.

Country-m. Then I perceive, Maſter, the Marſhal *de Villars*, for all his Bravades, takes Care to keep without Cannon-ſhot of our Army.

Obſ. 'Tis not the Intereſt of the *French* to fight, *Roger*; 'tis their Buſineſs to ſtun a Battel, to cover their Country, and to gain Time; and ſince they do ſo, and have made no Attempt to relieve *Tournay*, you may be ſure they are in a bad Condition; for that Town is of too great Importance for 'em to have neglected the Relief of it, had they been able.

Country-m. I am glad we have got a Conqueſt of that Importance, Maſter. Pray give me ſome Account of it, that I may tell my Country-Neighbours what a brave Thing we have got for our Money.

Obſ. You may tell them then, *Roger*, that 'tis the Capital of its Diſtrict, and the Seat of the Parliament, or ſovereign Court of Judicature, for the *French* King's new Conqueſts in the *Spaniſh Netherlands*, which he eſtabliſh'd here in 1669, two Years after he took it; that 'tis famous for Antiquity, having been taken by *Cæſar* from the *Nervii*. It is a large, populous, and well-built City, conſiſts of 10 Pariſhes, is a Biſhop's See, and conſiderable for its Trade in Stockings and woollen Stuffs, very well fortify'd with Walls, Ditches, and regular Outworks, and is conſiderable by its Situation, being 11 Miles South East from *Liſle*, and lies almoſt in the middle betwixt *Douay* and *Audenard*, *Valenciennes* and *Courtray*, and opens our Way into the Countries of *Arras* and *Picardy*. It was taken by our King *Henry* the VIIIth, who built the Caſtle; 'twas afterwards reſtor'd to the *French* on Conditions, then taken by the Emperor *Maximilian* the Iſt, afterwards by the Emperor *Charles* the Vth, then by the Duke of *Parma*, and all on St. *Andrew's* Day, which were reckon'd fatal to it; but now you ſee another Day has prov'd as fatal to it as that, *Roger*.

Country-m. I thank you for your Account, Maſter; but if it opens our Way into *Arras* and *Picardy*, why can't we march on? I'll warrant you the *French* will rather bring us Proviſions, than ſuffer their Country to be put under Military Execution, and ravag'd by Fire and Sword.

Obſ. You muſt conſider, *Roger*, that if they be ſtraiten'd themſelves, they can't furniſh us; the *French* have carry'd all they can into their Magazines and Places of Strength: Beſides, you muſt ſtay 'till you ſee what Succeſs we have in forcing their Lines, which we have no great Reaſon to doubt of, and then we may talk farther of that Matter.

Country-m. I fancy, Maſter, the *French* King will endeavour to prevent our making any further Impreſſion upon his Country, by ſending to renew the Treaty.

Obſ.

Obſ. 'Tis not improbable he may, *Roger*; but we have had too many Proofs of his Treachery, and one of 'em a very late one, to truſt him farther. If he can ſpin out this Campaign, and get Home his Plate-Fleet, we may be ſure he will play Tricks with us; therefore 'tis not our Intereſt to let him gain Time, or to liſten to his fraudulent Propoſals, except at once he deliver up to us all that he has taken ſince the *Pyrenean* Treaty, and particularly all his Garriſons in the *Spaniſh Netherlands*, which would enable us then to enter his Country to Rights, if he ſhould offer to trifle with us, without having our Rear and Flanks expos'd, or the March of our Convoys interrupted by his Garriſons.

Country-m. You ſay very well, Maſter. Whenever he comes to treat again, I hope the Allies will bring him in a *Dutch* Reckoning, and liſten to nothing leſs than full Satisfaction to all the Confederates, and an entire Reſtitution of the Edict of *Nantz*. I am ſure the Proteſtant Allies have Reaſon to inſiſt upon this, ſince his Cruelty againſt our Proteſtant Brethren in his Dominions, according to our publick Advices, is as great as ever. He loads them with more Chains in his Gallies, and does not allow them the uſual Conveniences for the Support of Life, that he allows to ſuch as are condemn'd to that miſerable Servitude for the moſt enormous Crimes. This looks, Maſter, as if his Heart were harden'd with a Vengeance, and that he had a Mind to out-brave Heaven, and the Proteſtant Allies, who I am ſure are moſt capable of annoying him; but I hope the renewing of his brutiſh Rage againſt the Reform'd in his Dominions, is an Evidence, that his Reign is ſhort, and drawing near a Concluſion. I want to hear ſomething of the Duke of *Savoy*'s Proceedings, Maſter: That Prince ſeems now to have a good Opportunity to puſh his Conqueſts on the Side of *Dauphine*, when the *French* are ſo much diſtreſs'd in the *Netherlands*, eſpecially conſidering the new Inſurrections in the *Cevennois*.

Obſ. I hope we may hear of his Progreſs in a little Time, *Roger*; but you know we have had Surmiſes publiſh'd, that his Royal Highneſs was under ſome Diſguſt, becauſe his Pretenſions to ſeveral Territories adjoining to his own, were not granted him by the Emperor, according to Treaty; and this was induſtriouſly ſpread about, to the Diſcouragement of the Confederates: But I have very good Ground to ſay, *Roger*, that thoſe Surmiſes were ill founded; for 'tis plain by the Emperor's Anſwers of the 23d of *May* laſt, and of the 27th, to the Miniſter of *Savoy*, to the *Britiſh* Miniſter, that the Emperor did not refuſe to perform what he had by Treaty agreed to give the Duke of *Savoy*, but only deſir'd, that Plenipotentiaries on both Sides might enquire, whether ſuch and ſuch Places that the Duke pretended to, did really belong to the Provinces which the Emperor had granted him; therefore the Emperor complain'd, that the Duke ſhould have recall'd his Plenipotentiaries, and refus'd to ſend them again to *Milan*, 'till thoſe Places were yielded to him. This the Emperor thought contrary to Juſtice, and the Nature of the mutual Obligations into which they enter'd by thoſe Treaties, that the Pretenſions of the one ſhould be poſitively inſiſted upon, and thoſe of the other rejected; eſpecially ſince the Emperor's Miniſters did at the Treaty declare to thoſe of *Savoy*, that they had not the neceſſary Information concerning thoſe Places; and that the ſame was not only declar'd to the *Britiſh* Miniſter at that Time, but 'twas agreed with the Envoy of *Savoy*, that the Inveſtiture in that Right was to be underſtood no otherwiſe, but as it ſhould be found by Deputies on both Sides to belong to the Dutchy of *Milan*. Beſides, the Imperial Commiſſaries for *Milan* did not only deny, that any Thing was tranſacted betwixt them and the Miniſters of *Savoy*, or any Documents given by them to the latter at that Treaty, but ſeveral of the Feudatories of the Empire complain, that ſuch Rights are uſurp'd over them in the Name of his Royal Highneſs, as the Dukes of *Milan* did never aſſume. Therefore this Matter cannot be determin'd without a farther Diſcuſſion, and the Emperor was willing, as he ſignify'd to Major General *Palmes*, to admit of the Interpoſition and good Offices of the Queen of *Great Britain*, and the States General, in this Matter; and alſo, as to the ſettling of the Accounts, and Time of paying what Money and Proviſions the Duke of *Savoy* had furniſh'd to the Emperor's Forces, tho' his Imperial Majeſty thought his Royal Highneſs would have deferr'd the demanding of it 'till another Time, conſidering the Burdens which have lain ſo long on his hereditary Provinces, the vaſt Charge his Imperial Majeſty has been at in enlarging the Duke of *Savoy*'s Boundaries, and that by Virtue of the League, the Emperor might have given Preference to the Reduction of both *Sicilies*. Now, *Roger*, as we have Reaſon to think this Anſwer has been ſatisfactory, we have no Reaſon to doubt, but notwithſtanding all the Endeavours of the *French* to improve thoſe Differences betwixt the Courts of *Vienna* and *Savoy*, and all the Surmiſes of their Emiſſaries to the contrary, that his Royal Highneſs will puſh the *French* on that Side, in Concert with the other Confederates, in order to bring the War to a happy Concluſion.

Advertiſements.

☞ Note, All fair Merchants, trading in Wine to Portugal, Spain, and the Levant, are deſir'd to meet C. R. on Monday next at Five of the Clock in the Afternoon, at the Union Coffee-houſe, over againſt the Royal Exchange, to concert proper Meaſures for humbly addreſſing the Lord High Treaſurer, &c. effectually to ſuppreſs the future bringing in French Wines; vaſt Quantities of which are conſtantly brought over by every Fleet from Holland, and particularly by the Fleet arriv'd this Week, now in the River. Theſe Wines, and other prohibited Goods, are ſometimes (to ſet a better Face on the Matter) own'd by Quality, and by Canary-Birds belonging to the Cuſtom-houſe, clandeſtinely and colluſively ſeiz'd by the Direction, and for the Benefit of the Proprietors, who agree with the Officer to do it for a ſmall Reward: Which Practice is countenanc'd by one of great Authority at the Cuſtom-houſe, who himſelf had a great Quantity directed to him from Holland, and by his Direction, this Sham ſeiz'd by one of his Nurſery, J. H. as will be prov'd in its proper Place the next Sitting of Parliament: And alſo to conſider of making proper Application to the Honourable Court of Exchequer, to prevent granting Writs of Delivery by Conſent this Vacation; which certainly is a great Prejudice to the Crown, and all fair-trading Merchants. Pray fail not to come, for now is the Time to exert the Laws for maintaining the Privileges thereby granted.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ The Life and Adventures of Capt. John Avery, the famous Engliſh Pirate, (rais'd from a Cabbin-boy to a King) now in Poſſeſſion of Madagaſcar; being a ſuccinct Account of his Birth, Parentage, Education, Misfortunes and Succeſſes, viz. His ſerving the Government on Board the Reſolution and Nonſuch Men of War. The Reaſons why he quitted that Service, for that of the Merchants; and his ſailing to Jamaica, where he diſpos'd of the Ship's Cargo. His taking a large Ship, worth above 1000000 Sterling, belonging to the Great Mogul, with his Grand-daughter on Board, with whom he marry'd. The Methods he took to eſtabliſh himſelf. His Wealth, Strength, and Acquiſitions by Sea and Land. His Character. The ſeveral Overtures he has made to return to his Obedience. A Deſcription of the Country; with its Cuſtoms, Manners, &c. Written by a Perſon who made his Eſcape from thence, and faithfully extracted from his Journal. Sold by J. Baker, at the Black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6d.

☞ The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, repreſented in a Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe; together with an Appendix in anſwer to Mr. John Marten's Reflexions thereupon. By J. Sintelaer, Practitioner in Phyſick, and Author of the Royal Decoction. Price of the Appendix alone bound 6d, together 3s. 6d. Sold by J. Helms in Weſtminſter-hall, R. Goſling at the Mitre in Fleet-ſtreet, W. Carter at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the black Bull in Cornhill, H. Ribotteau at the Crown near Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, B. Picard at the 3 Bibles in the Minories, J. Harding in St. Martins-lane near Long-acre, J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, and by the Author at his Dwelling-houſe (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over againſt little Turn-ſtile.

AT the Whitehall Coffee-houſe over Buckingham Court, near Charing Croſs, a Gentleman is to be ſpoke with every Monday, Wedneſday, and Friday Morning, that undertakes, by the Bleſſing of God, to cure Cancers in Womens Breaſts, and the Diſeaſe vulgarly call'd the King's-Evil, in a very ſhort Time, and that without Inciſion, Cauterizing, Fluxing, or any violent Methods, only by the Uſe of ſuch ſafe and pleaſant Medicines, as may be given and apply'd to a ſucking Child: Which, by their innate Specifick, and approved Vertues, cure both theſe Diſtempers, by rectifying the Diſorders of the Blood, rarifying the ſtagnated Liquors in the Glands, and putting them into Motion. He expects no Money for his Attendance or Medicines, till the Cure is perfected.

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